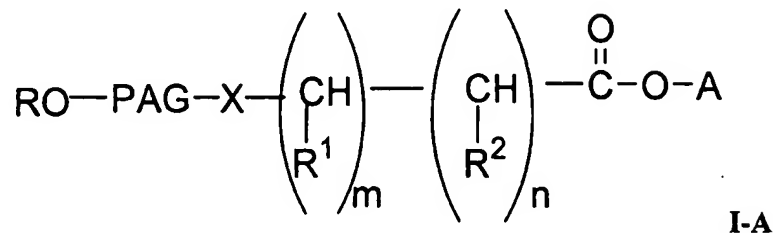


11/16/03

*Amend*

**In the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula



wherein R, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are individually hydrogen or lower alkyl; X is ~~O~~ or -NH-; PAG is a divalent residue of polyalkylene glycol resulting from removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups, which residue has a molecular weight of from 1,000 to 50,000 Daltons; n is an integer of from 0 to 1; m is an integer of from 4 to 8; and A is a hydrogen or an activated leaving group which when taken together with its attached oxygen atom forms an ester

or hydrolyzable esters thereof wherein A is hydrogen, wherein said PAG residue has a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 40,000 Daltons when X is O.

2. (Cancelled).
3. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 2-1 wherein A is hydrogen.
4. (Original) The compound of claim 3 wherein PAG is PEG, a divalent polyethylene glycol residue resulting from the removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups.